at present under consideration of the Government, at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The news bulletins issued by the International Airlines Passengers Association (IAPA) on safety of Indian Air lines flights are highly exaggerated and factually misleading and have had no impact on tourist arrivals.

Bilateral air service agreement with other countries

1016. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have free bilateral air service agreement between and with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) by when the said proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether such agreements are going to affect on the functioning of our Airlines; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) India is firmly committed to the bilaterals regime and there is no proposal for any change in the existing policy towards bilateral air service agreements.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Construction of International Airport at Bangalore

1017. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering constructing a new International Airport at Bangalore;

(b) if so, wrether the location of the Airport has been finalised;

(c) whether the Airport will be constructed by the Airport Authority or by Private Sector;

(d) if it is by private sector, whether permission has been accorded to any firm and the name of the firms, who have applied; and

(e) whether the Government of Karnataka has provided the land as promised for such project free of cost?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The Government of India has given its no objection to the State Government of Karnataka for construction of airport of international standards at Devanhalli in Bangalore, with the help of private parties The State Government is to firm up the cost of the project and other modalities. The National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority will provide technical assistance. However, they will not share any cost of the project.

Classification of Bangalore Airport

1018. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Airport has been classified as fullfledged international airport

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to introduce flights to Europe, US and Middle East from Bangalore;

(c) if not, the reasons for not declaring it as an international airport, when flights to Singapore is operating from Bangalore; and

(d) whether any other foreign Airlines have applied to operate from there if so, by which Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.